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COLORADO

Capitol BUILDINGS

THIS HISTORICAL *Sketch*

OF THE COLORADO CAPITOL AND ASSOCIATED GROUP OF BUILDINGS IS DEDICATED TO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO.

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Governor

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Photographs on pages 3, 9, 14 (top), 15, by O. Roach; on pages 11, 12, 14 (bottom), by Cooper and Cooper.

"Time can well be afforded to build wide and deep"

The Colorado Capitol

The Colorado Statehouse stands athwart the crest of a grassy knoll that slopes up gently from the heart of Denver, and today as yesterday, it dominates the city and the valley of the Platte. The high Corinthian porch of the main entrance looks across the Civic Center to the City and County building and beyond to the towering wall of the Rockies.

In form, the Statehouse is an adaptation of the National Capitol which, in turn, was inspired by the architecture of ancient Rome. This monumental style was adopted by our Nation's builders as the one most consistent with the ideals of the young Republic. By the time Colorado was admitted to the Union, style and ideals were wellnigh inseparable. Colorado pioneers accepted without question the pillared tower and dome as traditional symbols of democratic power and dignity.

THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE first assembled in the present Capitol in 1895; prior to that time, it had no home of its own. There was even a time when the "Capitol" was literally on wheels, when the sole property of the state—tables, benches, and gunny sacks of archives—was moved from place to place by covered wagon.

During the early attempts to form a state, meetings were held above

mar30'49

Apollo Hall—Denver

Dick Wootton's log cabin store in Auraria (now West Denver); in the big noisy Denver House, hotel and gambling saloon; and in Apollo Hall on Larimer Street, Denver's first theater. The first Territorial Assembly, called by William Gilpin on September 9, 1861, met in a frame building near Larimer and Fourteenth. The second assembly convened in Colorado City (between present Colorado Springs and Manitou), the first town to be officially selected as capital of Colorado Territory (Nov. 5, 1861). According to one story, the legislature met in a log cabin on Colorado Avenue, a cabin that was later used for a Chinese laundry. According to another version, the legislature met in Mrs. Maggard's hotel on Center Street. Whatever the truth, after a do-nothing session (July 7-11, 1862), the assembly adjourned to Denver, and Golden was designated the next capital (Aug. 14, 1862).

It was not until 1867 that Denver was selected as the Territorial Capital by the seventh assembly. The meeting places of the next three Territorial Legislatures have not been identified, but the eleventh and last assembled in the Odd Fellows Hall on Lawrence Street. Following Colorado's admission to the Union (1876) the State Legislature met in various rented quarters, the last being the old Barclay Block.

The Act of December 9, 1867, by which the capital was moved to Denver, also provided for a board to select a site for a capitol building, and required that the land be donated. When Henry C. Brown (builder of the Brown Palace) offered a ten-acre tract, known as Capitol Acres, the gift was promptly accepted although the state had no funds for construction. This tract was bounded by Colfax, Grant, Fourteenth, and Lincoln. In 1874, a new board of commissioners was authorized to get something done; but at this time, Colorado was about to be admitted to the Union, and the commissioners hesitated to act. Impatient with all these delays, Mr. Brown threatened to revoke his gift unless the state spent some money on Capitol Acres. He had expected a capitol building to enhance the value of his adjoining land, but the building had not materialized. In 1879, Mr. Brown carried out his threat, and years of litigation followed.

In the Meantime, the state went ahead with its efforts to secure a permanent home for the courts, the executive officers, and the legislature. The first step was to select a capital city. When this question was put up to the voters in 1881, campaigns were carried on by Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Canon City, Salida, and Gunnison, but Denver received the popular vote by a large majority. In 1883, when a favorable outcome of the state's suit against Mr. Brown was certain, a board of supervisors was created, $150,000 was appropriated for building, and a bond issue of $300,000 approved.

The state also advertised for bids on the erection of one wing of a building; additional wings were to be added as required. This plan, however, soon ended in failure since the proposition was not attractive to architects. The legislature was forced to rewrite the specifications in 1885, and after hot debate, the cost of a complete building was fixed at one million dollars. This sum was said to represent a compromise between the "bonanza members" who wanted a ten-million-dollar legislative palace and those members who thought the state could "worry along with a twenty-five-thousand-dollar edifice." When the state advertised its new proposals, the design for the present building was among the twenty-one plans received. It was the work of architect E. E. Myers of Detroit who had also designed the capitols of Michigan and Texas.

Ten Years Had Now Passed since Colorado became a state. Its title to Capitol Acres had been confirmed by the United States Supreme Court. On July 5, 1886, the excavation was started. Apparently, the Capitol would soon be a reality. Actually, there were many years of trouble ahead. The cost of materials and labor went up. Litigation with the first contractor, W. D. Richardson of Illinois, led to his replacement by the Denver firm of Geddes and Seerie. Further difficulties ended in the dismissal of E. E. Myers as supervising architect and the appointment of Peter Gumry. As the years passed, and there was nothing to be seen on Capitol Hill but a forest of derricks, the *Rocky Mountain News* consoled the citizens with the words: "Time can well be afforded to build wide and deep." As for the foundations, they were very wide and deep; in fact, they were colossal.

Colorado City Capitol

The Cornerstone was laid at noon on July 4, 1890, following a spectacu-

lar parade to Capitol Hill. The temporary stand at the northeast corner of the foundations was jammed with all the Big-Wigs of city and state. Beyond the stand was a billowing sea of brightly-colored parasols, fluttering bandannas, and swishing palm-leaf fans—there were bricklayers in white uniforms, blue-coated policemen, fraternal orders in red and gold, cowboys, and miners from the hills. There were acres of calico, white lawn, and printed Shanghai silks—there were bustles.

The First Infantry band opened the program with a military air, after which a Masonic choir of one thousand voices sang the national anthem. Colorado Masons in ceremonial aprons then performed the ancient ritual of squaring the stone and declaring it "well and truly laid." Hours of old-fashioned oratory by Governor Cooper and other dignitaries concluded the program. The thousands of perspiring citizens out beyond the stand could not hear a word that was said, but they were content—the granite walls of their capitol were about to rise.

By the End of 1892, the massive walls were up and ready for the beams that support the roof. By the fall of 1894, some of the office rooms were ready to be occupied, but the corridors, rotundas, and most of the larger rooms had an appearance of stark, unfinished grandeur. There was no marble on the floors; the onyx wainscoting was yet to come. Nevertheless, early in November, Governor Davis H. Waite, the executive officers, and members of the courts began moving out of their old quarters in the Equitable building into the Capitol. In the following year, the work had advanced far enough for the legislature (the tenth) to assemble for the first time in a home of its own. The assembly chambers, however, were badly ventilated inside rooms, and before the meeting of the next legislature, it was necessary to remodel this entire portion of the building.

. . . while Masons perspired

Since the Capitol was not actually finished until 1907 or 1908, building operations hampered the conduct of state business with dirt and noise. Stone masons and carpenters tramped across the carpets of the furnished rooms, damaged the furniture and interrupted conferences. By the time the building was fully completed, most of the furnishings were worn out and had to be replaced. Moreover, the cost of the structure had mounted to $2,800,000.

All Material used in the capitol is native except the steel girders and trusses and the ornamental brass which were supplied by the

He led a thousand voices

Lane Bridge Company. The outer walls are of granite that was quarried near Gunnison. The foundations and wall backing are of Fort Collins sandstone. The wainscoting and many of the interior pilasters are of Colorado onyx, a brilliant agate-like stone that was found near Beulah. All cast iron work, such as the interior columns and the shell of the dome, was fabricated in Denver.

The floor plan was designed on an axis in the form of a Greek cross, 383 feet long by 315 feet wide. Each face of the structure is dominated by a high Corinthian portico. Broad corridors, paved with white marble, extend from each of the four entrances to the central staircase in the rotunda. Immediately above, a circular well pierces the structure to the tower beneath the dome. The great dome itself is forty-two feet in diameter; its tip is 272 feet above the ground. The copper, which originally covered the dome, was replaced in 1908 by two hundred ounces of gold leaf. An appropriation was made in 1907 for a statue for the dome but this idea was abandoned in favor of a four-foot electric globe.

In 1879, William N. Byers, founder of the old *Rocky Mountain News*, predicted that some day the city would have a magnificent statehouse from the dome of which the "naked eye would be able to see both the northern and southern extremities of the state." No one has ever been able to see so far from the observation tower of the Capitol. There is visible, however, a magnificent view along the Continental Ridge that includes Pikes Peak, Mount Evans, and Longs Peak. A newspaper man wrote in 1890: "No vaster, sublimer view was ever spread out before the eye of sinful man than that which sweeps away into snow and clouds from the west portico of the Capitol."

. . . and ladies glowed

Around the Base of the tower are sixteen circular windows of stained glass, the work of Thomas H. Neil of New York. The persons depicted in these windows include Colorado pioneer statesmen, industrialists, educators, In-

dian scouts, and one woman—Mrs. Frances Jacobs, charity worker and civic benefactor. These personages were selected only after hundreds of petitions from all over the state had been considered. Curiously, the one character upon whom everybody agreed was Ouray, Chief of the Utes and loyal friend of the white man.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ADDITION to the Capitol's interior decoration is the group of murals in the first-floor rotunda. They were the gift of the Boettcher Foundation in 1938, and were painted by Allen True, F. R. S. A., of Denver, one of America's most distinguished painters. Done in oil on canvas, these murals depict in glowing colors the role played by water in the development of the West. The lyrical inscriptions that accompany each panel were composed by the poet, Thomas Hornsby Ferril, of Denver.

THE CAPITOL LAWNS, composed entirely of a rich growth of blue grass, are among the finest in the world. Nearly fifty varieties of trees provide shade and ornament about the grounds. Trees from Europe and Asia, and American trees not native to Colorado, have been identified by markers. The two black walnut trees on the west terrace were grown from seed that was brought from Abraham Lincoln's home in Illinois.

The bronze group on the east lawn represents an Indian hunter examining his prey, a dying buffalo. It is the work of Preston Powers, who once taught art in Denver, and was paid for by subscriptions from Colorado women. The cast was made in Florence, Italy. It was first exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, where it received its name, "The Closing Era," from the poet, John Greenleaf Whittier. The flag-pole at the western end of the grounds commemorates Colorado volunteers who died in the Spanish-American War. The bronze figure of the soldier on the west terrace, dedicated to Colorado veterans of the Civil War, was modeled by John D. Howland, himself a veteran. On the top flight of steps at the west entrance is a bronze plaque indicating the altitude: "One Mile Above Sea Level." Denver, the capital city, is America's highest metropolis.

All agreed on Ouray

The Colorado State Museum

The State Historical Society of Colorado was organized in 1879, and by legislative act was designated the official collector and custodian of state historical material. The first collections were exhibited in the old county courthouse; from there, they were moved to the basement of the new Capitol. In 1915, the society was declared a state educational institution.

Not many years after the society's collections had been installed in the Capitol it was found necessary to provide a separate building for them. Such a building was authorized in 1909, and in 1915 the Colorado State Museum on East Fourteenth Avenue was completed and occupied. The style is modified Roman classical. Design and supervision were by F. E. Edbrooke and Company of Denver. The cost was $460,000, and native materials only were used in construction—granite from Cotopaxi, marble from the Yule quarries, brick and tile from a Denver plant.

Museum exhibits illustrate life in the old West and Southwest from prehistoric times to the present. The culture of the Cliff-Dwellers of Mesa Verde is represented by the finest collection of its kind in America. There are stone *metates*, used for grinding meal, bone instruments for sewing and weaving, mats and door curtains of willow withes and yucca fiber,

feather and rabbit-fur cloth, stone axes and mauls, smoke-blackened cooking vessels, decorated pottery, baskets, and several mummies. The homes of the Cliff-Dwellers are represented by many photographs and by a remarkable ten-foot model.

Indian relics of historic times embrace almost everything used by the tribes of mountain and plain both at home and afield: bead and quill work, belts, pouches, pueblo pottery, rugs, fabrics, cradles, moccasins, war bonnets, peace pipes, necklaces, and baskets. The Indian collections are invaluable to students and scholars.

Relics of the pioneers include old saddles, branding irons, carriages, buffalo guns, pistols and six-shooters. Also on display are the sword of Zebulon Pike, Kit Carson's rifle, and the minting machinery of Clark, Gruber and Company, freighted across the plains by oxteam in 1860. The collection of pioneer clothing, household articles, and furniture includes "Baby Doe" Tabor's seven-thousand-dollar wedding dress. The Tabor collection alone fills eleven cases.

The basement of the museum is devoted largely to relics of the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World War I. The second floor is taken up by the $80,000 mineral collection—one of the most exhaustive in the world. It includes base and precious metals, mineralized earths, native building stone, and coal.

Supplementing the relics of the past are forty-two three-dimensional dioramas that depict scenes from the daily life of the Indian, the trapper, and the miner. There are also many interesting scale models of stage-coaches, covered wagons, early railroad equipment, and a model of Denver as it was in 1860.

The library of the State Historical Society includes the best collection of historical works on Colorado in existence and the most complete file of Colorado newspapers. There is also a comprehensive collection of books on the old West and Southwest together with many rare works of Western Americana and priceless manuscripts. The library is open daily to students and scholars, but is strictly a research, not a loan, library.

The State Office Building

At the time the Capitol was built, some of the citizens complained that there was more room than the State would ever need, but in less than twenty years the building was overcrowded. Even the removal of the historical museum from the basement did not solve the problem.

In 1919, a corner lot was purchased at Colfax and Sherman, and construction began on the State Office Building. The cornerstone was laid on June 5, 1920, by Colorado Masons, and in 1921 this handsome, five-story building of steel was ready for occupancy. Its cost was $1,475,000. The architect was William N. Bowman of Denver. The outer walls are of native granite; both Yule and Tennessee marble have been used on the interior.

Like the Capitol, the Office Building is Roman Corinthian in style although the classical elements in the latter are ornamental rather than structural. The main entrance, with its triple bronze doors, Venetian lamps, and twin Rocky Mountain lions is marked by great simplicity and dignity. The bronze lions are the work of Robert Garrison, Denver sculptor.

The Capitol Annex

During the 1920s and '30s, the complexities of government increased so rapidly that it became necessary for the State to rent space in downtown office buildings for its many new boards. In order to avoid this expense, the Capitol Annex was begun in 1937 with the aid of a PWA grant, at the corner of Fourteenth and Sherman. It was completed two years later at a cost of $900,000 from the designs of the Associated Architects of Denver. Dedication ceremonies were held on September 9, 1939. The Annex is self-sustaining in the sense that most of the departments that occupy space pay an annual rental to the State out of fees collected by them.

Architecturally, the Annex differs radically from the other buildings in the Statehouse group. Whereas the earlier buildings all followed the classical style, the Annex is an all-steel structure of modern design. There is no applied ornament. The beauty of the building depends upon its arrangement of lines, surfaces, and block-like masses. Except for a small amount of granite, the exterior is composed entirely of white Yule marble. Corridors are finished with native travertine.

The Capitol Annex

The Golden Dome by Night

It's a Fact

Two hundred stone-cutters, many from Maine, Vermont, California, and Texas, were constantly employed in building the Capitol. * * * In addition to five-foot walls, the building is supported by forty-two piers more than six feet square at their bases; foundations for the walls and piers consist of a bed of gravel, three feet of concrete, and a one-foot layer of sandstone. * * * In the rough, the cornerstone weighed twenty tons and required twenty mules to haul it. * * * There are one hundred and sixty rooms in the Capitol, and to duplicate it today would cost close to ten million dollars.

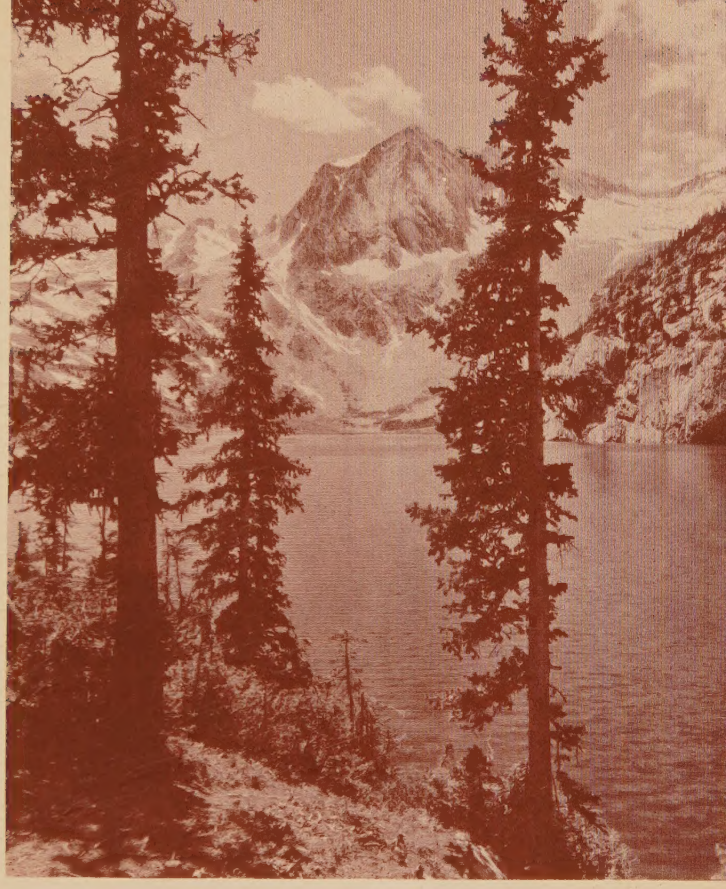
Articles deposited in the cornerstone of the Capitol include a Bible; an American flag; Constitutions of the United States and the State of Colorado; a copy of *Pike's Exploration in 1806-7* in the Colorado region; many state records and historical data; current newspapers; a collection of coins; the *Denver Directory* for 1890; and a walking stick made from a piece of the keel of Old Ironsides.

The yearly maintenance cost of the Capitol group is $200,000. * * * To heat these buildings requires 2,500 tons of coal yearly; power and light, supplied by generators below the museum, come to 115,000 kilowatts every month. * * * The total number of employees in the Capitol group is 1,200. * * * During the summer months, nine men are required to care for the lawns, trees, and shrubs; water for sprinkling amounts to 1,150,000 gallons per month. * * * The Capitol Grounds, including building sites, now embrace fifteen acres, the original Brown tract having been augmented by five acres purchased by the State. * * * All buildings are connected underground by stone and concrete tunnels that carry all steam and water pipes and electrical conduits.

Colorado Department of Game and Fish: one of the few state departments that owns its own building, a venerable brownstone mansion next to the Office Building on Sherman; purchased and occupied in 1941. Twelve boards and commissions still rent space in private buildings.

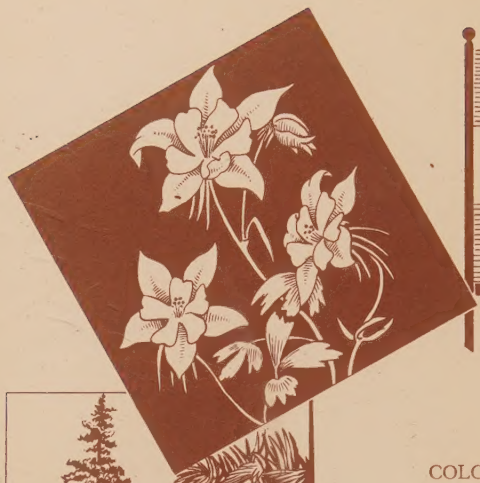
Entrance: State Office Building

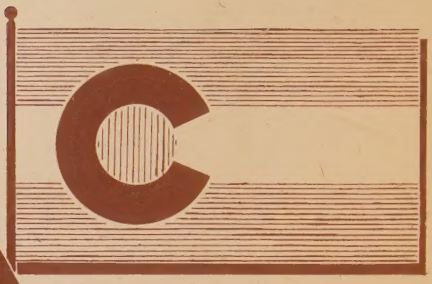
Entrance: Capitol Annex



TOP *of the* NATION

Colorado's full of more good vacation ideas than you could shake a guidebook at. There are fifty-one 14,000-foot peaks, and whether you climb them or not they'll take your breath. You won't need to stand in line to fish—there are six thousand miles of trout streams and two thousand lakes. When you hunt, you won't need a bullet-proof vest—there's plenty of room, plenty of game. You can swim in pools fed by hot springs or splash around at the foot of a glacier. You can ride the range with handsome dudes or with the real McCoy; or you can loaf in a chair at a mountain lodge and dream about covered-wagon days. You can live alone in dark evergreen forests or rhumba around at de luxe resorts. Come winter, you can *glande-sprung* with the best of them or just ride up and down the ski tow in the sunshine. Colorado has everything—hair-raising cliffs and gorges, sand dunes, prairies, peaceful valleys. There are national parks and forests, mineral springs, ghost towns, ancient cliff-dwellings, living Indian villages. Whether you come to play, to relax, to explore, or to live, you can't miss in Colorado. It's Nature's World's Fair with a new show every hour. It's the summer and winter playground of the Nation.





Emblems of State

COLORADO—State named for the Colorado River; river so named because of its brownish-red color (?); from Spanish, *colorado,* colored, ruddy or red (the river must have been named at flood-stage, since the water is clear at other seasons—Ed).

NICKNAME—Centennial State; Silver State; because of its mountains, long known as the Switzerland of America, and more recently as the Top of the Nation.

FLAG—Three equal stripes, two blue and a white; at left, a red letter "C" encircling a golden disk; width, two-thirds of length. Adopted in 1911.

GREAT SEAL—Heraldic shield with snow-capped peaks and miner's device; fasces bear words, "Union and Constitution"; crest holds eye of God. Adopted in 1877.

MOTTO—*Nil Sine Numine:* Nothing without Providence (or Diety); corruption of a line from Virgil's Aeneid; adopted in 1861 for the territorial seal.

FLOWER—The white and lavender (Rocky Mountain) Columbine (*Aquilegia caerulea*); flower is protected by law in Colorado on all public lands. Adopted in 1899.

BIRD—Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys Stejneger*); native of western United States east of Rockies; averages seven inches long; winters in Mexico; male bird has black plumage during mating season; color later changes to gray streaked with brown like that of female; sings in flight. Adopted in 1931.

SONG—"Where the Columbines Grow"; words and music by Arthur J. Fynn of Denver. Adopted in 1915.

TREE—Colorado Blue Spruce (*Pecea pungens*); identification—cones, three inches long; bark of mature tree is furrowed; zone, below 9,000 feet; height, up to 100 feet; diameter, up to two feet; needles, stiff, sharp, four-sided; new growth more bluish than older foliage. Adopted in 1939.

. . . As the Scene Changes

The dinosaur has left his giant spoor upon the rocks of Colorado. Time was when crocodiles were native here. The earth once thundered to the mammoth's tread. Then came the forms we know today: bison, antelope, deer, elk, old Moccasin Joe.

Man came quite late — some twenty thousand years ago, and left upon our eastern plains a few chipped points to tantalize the experts. These were the Yuma and the Folsom men. Eighteen milleniums passed; then, around the time of Caesar, the Basket Makers appeared on the southwest mesa lands. As the centuries passed, their primitive pit dwellings were succeeded by pueblos and then by the cliff-dwellings of Mesa Verde. By the time the Cliff-Dwellers had vanished, the nomadic tribes of history had appeared upon the plains.

The first white men to enter the region were the Spanish explorers who gave to almost every mountain and stream in southern Colorado the name it bears today. Our heritage from the French fur traders is almost negligible. Organized exploration had to await the coming of the Americans: Pike, Long, Fremont, and Gunnison. In their wake came the Mountain Men: Bridger, Baker, Wootton, Carson, the Bents —the real trail-blazers of Colorado.

The first settlements were made in the San Luis Valley in the 1850s by Spanish-Americans from New Mexico. The discovery of gold near Denver in 1858 by the Russell party resulted in the first Anglo-American settlements. The strikes of Gregory and Jackson brought legions of Argonauts across the plains—miners, merchants, land-promoters, and gamblers. On February 28, 1861, when houses of brick were replacing log cabins, Colorado Territory was created.

The Civil War era was a time that tried men's faith in the land. Then came the railroads in 1870, along with new methods for treating ore. Baronial ranches grew up around vast herds of longhorns. Settlers swarmed into the fertile valleys. The Leadville strike of 1878 put silver production ahead of gold, and opened the era of great mining and railroad enterprises. As wealth poured into the banks, Colorado towns blossomed with colleges, opera houses, and brown-stone palaces.

Colorado rallied quickly from the national panic of 1893. The discovery of gold at Cripple Creek offset the drop in silver. Dry farming and irrigation extended the farm area. New crops, such as sugar beets, created new wealth. Wool production soared. Expansion of trade made Colorado the commercial emporium of the West; good roads and the motor car made it the playground of the Nation. The state has vast wealth under ground but its major source of wealth today is in its farms and ranches.